

Jackson Park: Abe Sailors lend a hand to school

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ing to give something back to Bremerton while we're here. The more volunteers, the merrier. The more volunteers we have, the more children we can help. It's a good feeling knowing that you're helping someone else," said Love.

One Jackson Park student, first-grader Kaliecia Kimball, who got to spend some quality time with Personnel Department's PN1(SW) Eunice Taylor, was delighted to see Abe's Sailors helping out in the classrooms. After all, her dad's in the Navy. "It's like my Dad is here," she said with a smile.

Taylor accepted the challenge and is now looking forward to volunteering on a regular basis. "I've never done anything like this, and I want to help the kids. The children seem appreciative. It also gives me a chance to get off the ship and break up the monotony of PIA. I'm going to bring my junior Sailors so they can be involved in the community,"

said Taylor.

Whitney Duncan, a fellow first-grader, is also happy to see Abe's warriors. On this particular morning, Petty Officer Love was busy helping Whitney with some basic English skills. "She's pretty cool. She's nice. She's helping me write a letter to a friend at another school," said the enthusiastic youngster.

In addition to the welcoming that the Sailors get from the young students, teachers and administrators are delighted that Abe's Sailors are actively involved in the community.

According to third-grade teacher Nikki Makris, teaching children today is an all-hands effort. "It's wonderful to have extra hands and help the kids with math and reading. It's great to see members of the community coming out here to support the children."

The 'commanding officer' of the school, Principle Shirley Kenmochi, is delighted to have Abe's men and women

aboard to help her students navigate the sometimes difficult and turbulent waves of education. "The teachers have been really happy with the help they have been getting from the USS Abraham Lincoln Sailors. We really appreciate it," said Kenmochi.

As for the Sailors taking the time out of their busy schedule to volunteer a few hours to help the children, according to Kenmochi, what the Sailors are giving is far greater than what they will ever get back in return.

"The first thing we see when the Sailors come in is how the children cluster around them because they're family. They have a lot of respect for Sailors. Even if they come dressed in civilian clothes, the kids know we have Navy volunteers and they respect that. The kids respond really well when they have a mentor. It's been really helpful to have that one-on-one interaction," added Kenmochi.

Pacific: Abe honors Sailors

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"We try to make our parents look good," he said

EM2 Saioi Saeloa, also from Samoa, stood behind the podium to present the history of Asian-Americans in the Navy and a first-hand account of life in the Navy from an Asian Pacific Islander. Saeloa said, "I have enjoyed my career and I'm staying Navy." He has served 11 years. "The Navy has changed me," he said

Lt. Lucky Moises, took the floor to turn the spotlight on Hawaiian's who serve our country in the Navy. Moises joined the Navy in 1979 as an Interior Communications Specialist to see the world. His wife is also Hawaiian. "When we were growing up we had a senator...he was kind of like our armed forces hero in Hawaii because he took care of a lot of our situations," said Moises

Capt. D.K. Dupouy stood before the assembly and said "This ceremony recognizes a vital group of Americans." "In the military, Army Chief of Staff and member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Hawaiian native Gen. Eric Shinseki, is the highest ranking Asian American in the military today," he said "Aboard Abraham Lincoln, we have our fine group of Asian-Americans probably a little lesser known group, but equally important just the same. Names like Manuel, Lee, Canaria, and many, many more," said Dupouy.

In the end more than thirty Abe crew members turned out to take a deeper look into the impact Asian-Americans have on many different aspects of our lives. Whether it's here on

ship, in another service, or mentors and sports heroes, this celebration highlighted just a small portion of what "Emerging Together" means to this group of Americans.

"It's all about what people do for our country," said Moises.

Spotlight Sailor

Born in San Francisco, Calif.
Joined the Navy: Sept. 6, 2000
Age: 19

Reason for joining Navy:
 "See the world."

Time on board:
 1 week

Looking forward to:
 "Making a career out of the Navy as electrician."

David Ngheim